



Company Press Release

Global Solar Energy Wins Environmental Excellence Award

TUCSON, Ariz.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 15, 2000--The University of Colorado has awarded a Tucson-based solar equipment manufacturing company its Corporate Excellence Award in the category of Environmental Awareness.

Global Solar Energy L.L.C. manufactures a thin-film photovoltaic material that converts sunlight directly into electricity. The company, which also has operations in Colorado and India, was honored by the university's Graduate School of Business Association for ``practicing energy efficient, conservation-focused principles in its daily operations."

The group specifically recognized the company for its photovoltaic products that operate without emissions or need for non-renewable fuels, and for its ``green" award-winning manufacturing facility in Tucson.

Unlike traditional solar panels that are heavy, fragile, and rigid, Global Solar's thin-film solar modules are lightweight, durable, and can be incorporated into flexible products. Global Solar's current production is focused on manufacturing Global Solar's unique lightweight and flexible solar modules including its foldable Portable Power Pack(TM).

These products satisfy both defense department and non-military applications.

Other efforts are focused on fulfilling existing government contracts, supplying PV material to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for incorporation into products such as roofing materials, and providing lightweight modules to satisfy traditional residential and commercial applications.

Global Solar also is developing a pilot manufacturing line at its Denver-based research facility to produce thin-film solid state rechargeable batteries.

These thin-film batteries are less than the thickness of a human hair, tolerant of wide ranges of operating temperatures, can be recharged thousands of times, and can be fabricated into many shapes and sizes to meet requirements of specific applications.

These batteries can be the active power source for microelectronics (implantable medical devices), as a standby power source for microelectronics (CMOS-SRAM memory devices), and for other applications. Longer term, Global Solar intends to integrate these batteries with its CIS photovoltaic modules to offer fully self-contained and flexible power packs.

UniSource Energy Corp. owns two-thirds of Advanced Energy Technologies, which, in turn, owns all of Global Solar Energy.

UniSource Energy's other affiliates include Tucson Electric Power Co., the second largest investor-owned utility in Arizona; Nations Energy Corp., an investor in independent power projects; ION International, a newly-formed energy services company; and Southwest Energy Solutions, a regional energy services company.

The other one-third owner of Global Solar Energy is ITN Energy Systems Inc., a Denver-based, privately-held research and technology development company specializing in advanced materials sciences, and thin-film intelligent processing to provide innovative solutions to space, energy, and environmental industries.

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